Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Russian River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$66,700 **Match Provided:** \$23,100

Additional Funding Obtained: \$66,342

Benefits to the watershed

- Enhanced communication and collaboration within the watershed between state and federal entities, private landowners, associations, local governments and Tribes.
- Established the Forsythe Creek Watershed Advisory Group, which has sponsored tours and workshops, developed a watershed assessment plan outline, and has been instrumental in highlighting critical issues and potential solutions.
- Expanded the Fish Friendly Farming Program with private landowners and enrolled almost 3859 acres into the program. Also, developed an effective education outreach program with the Ukiah Unified School district.

Partnerships

NRCS, local landowners, USACE, Coyote Valley Tribal EPA, Golden Rule Church Association, Circuit Riders, Russian River Watershed Council, Ukiah Unified School District, Mendocino Farm Bureau, USDA Farm Services Agency, Mendocino Winegrowers Alliance, vineyards, DFG, NMFS, and North Coast Grape Growers Association.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assist Sotoyome RCD in obtaining funding for watershed projects and activities.



Building a weir within the McNab Creek streambed to establish pools for fish habitat

- ✓ Collaboratively developed a list of projects and the projects' progression in planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring.
- ✓ Submitted a joint 319(h) grant for monitoring the McNab and Parsons watersheds.
- ✓ Provided a joint presentation to the McNab Creek watershed landowners on the creek stewardship program.

Performance Measure: Secure funding for continued monitoring on Sotoyome RCD initiated activities in Mendocino County.

Objective 2: Establish Forsythe Creek Watershed Advisory Group.

- ✓ Established the advisory group, consisting of twelve members who meet regularly.
- ✓ Developed a list of all landowners in the watershed who receive newsletters and other informational mailers.
- ✓ Conducted two tours during which information was provided on fish habitat and stream bank restoration.

- ✓ Presented a workshop on native riparian vegetation. Nearly 400 trees were planted.
- ✓ Completed a digital and a hard copy topographic map of Forsythe Creek.
- ✓ Completed an outline of the watershed assessment plan.

Performance Measure: Develop a Forsythe Watershed Assessment Plan that identifies specific priorities for implementation.

Objective 3: Establish water quality education committee.

- ✓ Formed the committee which consists of nine educators and other community members.
- ✓ Working with the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project coordinator to develop a curriculum on water quality that will be used throughout the school district.
- ✓ Developing an interactive and community-based display and on-site education projects.

Performance Measure: Deliver water quality education to 500 people at the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project.

Objective 4: Conduct outreach to farmers on Fish Friendly Farming Techniques.

- ✓ Developed an outreach program to work on a one-on-one basis with farmers to implement Best Management Practices.
- ✓ Conducted the first class on Fish Friendly Farming. Seven vineyards enrolled in the program, which includes about 3859 acres.
- ✓ Involved with the Landowner Technical Outreach Committee, a technical advisory committee, that will provide landowners with information on permitting and guidance on restoration projects that support listed anadromous fisheries.

Performance Measure: 10 new vineyards participating in the Fish Friendly Farming Program working to complete implementation of Fish Friendly Farming Plans.

Objective 5: Improve coordination and partnerships within the watershed.



Evaluating Soil Erosion

- ✓ Provides recommendations to the Russian River Watershed Council on watershed restoration efforts.
- ✓ Attends meetings and workshops to enhance and develop relationships and increase coordination throughout the area.
- ✓ Distributes informational mailers and writes articles for the newsletter.
- ✓ Developing a comprehensive Upper Russian River Partners Directory.
- ✓ Initiated a Quarterly Upper Russian River Forum to discuss each partner's activities to enhance cooperation.

Performance Measure: Complete Upper Russian River Directory with 25 new partners.

Mission Resource Conservation District

San Luis Rey-Escondido Watershed

Amount Funded: \$83,300 **Match Provided:** \$30,087

Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,500

Benefits to the Watershed

- Finished the San Luis Rey Watershed management guideline.
- ➤ Held a well attended watershed event to introduce the Watershed Guideline to a wide variety of stakeholders.
- ➤ Worked with the National Weather Service, San Diego Flood Control District and CA-NV Flood forecasting center to plan a flood warning system for communities in the San Luis Rey watershed.

Partnerships

Pala Indian Tribe, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, National Weather Service, CA-NV River Forecasting Center, City of Oceanside, San Diego County, SWRCB, U.S. EPA, Native American Health Coalition, Ca Costal Conservancy, San Diego RWQCB, Dendra, San Diego County Flood Control District, San Diego County Farm Bureau, Vista Irrigation District, Oceanside Water Dept., Pauma Indian Tribe, RiverWatch, and Upper San Luis Rey RCD.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Provide technical, administrative, and grant writing support to San Luis Rey Watershed Council.

- ✓ Completed and published the San Luis Rey watershed management guideline. The guideline offers suggestions for addressing watershed issues such as: water quality, industrial pollution, invasive species, fire management, erosion, flooding, wetlands protection, and other concerns critical to the health of the watershed.
- ✓ Organized and facilitated monthly watershed council meetings. Since the beginning of the grant, council membership has increased by 20%.



Lake Henshaw, San Luis Rey Watershed

- Held a watershed celebration in cooperation with San Diego County and the Pala tribe to introduce the watershed guideline. Approximately 75 people attended the celebration. The event was attended by representatives from three state legislators who all voiced strong support for the council.
- ✓ Worked with council to refine a watershed project priority list.
- ✓ Developed partnerships with National Weather Service and San Diego County Flood Control District to pursue the creation of a flood warning system for communities in the San Luis Rey watershed.



✓ Submitted five grant proposals requesting a total of \$1.1 million. If awarded, grants will provide funding for Arundo donax removal, wildfire management, a wetlands restoration project, and a public information video.

Performance Measure: Write a minimum of 2 grant proposals; provide comprehensive agendas and minutes for Council meetings, complete council watershed plan.

Objective 2: Improve coordination between county agencies and Watershed Council.

✓ Attended San Diego county department of planning and land use (DPLU) multiple species conservation planning meetings on behalf of the council. The Watershed Coordinator arranged to have speakers from DPLU give a formal presentation to the watershed council about the multiple species conservation program.



From the top of the San Luis Rey Watershed

- ✓ Represented watershed council at San Diego county storm water meetings. The watershed coordinator's involvement with the county storm water program has allowed the Council to stay current with developments in urban runoff management.
- ✓ Participated in the County's Project Clean Water "Science and Technical Advisory Committee" for water quality monitoring. This has allowed the watershed coordinator to inform council members about the new NPDES permit requirements that will take effect in February 2002.
- ✓ Worked with Dendra, a private industry partner, to submit grant applications to fund the Santa Margarita-San Luis Rey Weed Management Area program.

Performance Measure: Documentation of Watershed Coordinator involvement.

Monterey County Resource Conservation District

Alisal-Elkhorn Sloughs Watersheds

Amount Funded: \$50,500 **Match Provided:** \$17,200

Additional Funding Obtained: \$318,000

Benefits to the watershed

- Collaborated with the six coastal RCDs, governmental agencies, landowners, and local organizations to address critical issues and develop effective solutions.
- Participated in numerous outreach activities including the Monterey County Farm Day, Farrow Alignment workshop, and the Farm Training Center's restoration project.
- ➤ Providing landowners with assistance in implementing restoration plans, and developing a fact sheet to educate landowners on permit requirements.

Partnerships

NRCS, Farm Bureau, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, UCCE, local schools, landowners, Monterey County, Friends of the Tembladero Slough, Association of Land Based Training in Agriculture (ALBA), Ca Coastal Conservancy, Carneros Creek Association, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, and TNC.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Monitor and assess the success of conservation practices, develop consistent technical information, and disseminate such information.

- ✓ Worked with partners to compile and organize outreach materials.
- ✓ Attended Ag Plan Implementation Committee meetings.



Planted native trees and shrubs to provide native bird habitat

✓ Compiled a list of training needs and opportunities for the coastal county RCDs.

Performance Measure: Provide the number of new and revised fact sheets developed in cooperation with the NRCS. Provide the number of land users served by the UCCE Farm Water Quality Short Courses and the estimated number of land users to receive recommendations on information provided to agency staff in interagency trainings. Minutes from 16 monthly AG Plan Implementation Committee meetings. List of training needs and funding opportunities for each District. Workshop attendance summaries.

Objective 2: Increase and promote Central Coast RCD technical assistance to the Farm Bureau Coalition Pilot Projects.

- ✓ Participated in the San Benito Farm Tour.
- ✓ Submitted final draft of the Elkhorn Sbugh Watershed Project Extension and Expansion proposal for funding.

Performance Measure: Document regional number and types of practices adopted for each Farm Bureau Watershed Council.

Objective 3: Develop regional strategies that encourage long-term integration of conservation awareness and protection within the agricultural and residential communities.

- ✓ Coordinated with the Farm Training Center to have work crews plant trees, control weeds, collect debris, and repair fences.
- ✓ Worked with RCD staff and volunteers to implement a conservation plan on a local landowner's property. Planted vegetation along a 325 feet stretch of Carneros Creek to reduce erosion.
- ✓ Co-organized a Furrow Alignment workshop.
- ✓ Facilitating discussions between Carneros Creek Association, ALBA, and other groups to establish a nursery at the FTC location.
- ✓ Obtained \$318,000 including funding for implementation of the Argricultural and Rural Lands Plan.

Performance Measure: Provide the number and type of conservation practices adopted by the FC that received RCD technical assistance, draft model lease agreement, provide a regional number of RRAs receiving road management practices recommendations either through fact sheet mailing and recommendations and, provide the number of referrels received by the RCD from Monterey County.

Objective 4: Develop a regional public education program to increase awareness of RCD watershed activities and programs.



School children at the Monterey County Farm Day

- ✓ Presented conservation information to over 300 school children and 60 chaperones at the Monterey County Farm Day.
- ✓ Conducted a soil science field day for six elementary teachers at the Triple M Farm Training Center.

Performance Measure: Central Coast Volunteer Directory. Provide the number of media events and promotions facilitated by the Watershed Coordiantor.

Objective 5: Ensure that landowners are provided accurate information regarding stream project permit requirements.

- ✓ Developing a draft fact sheet to provide landowners with permit information.
- ✓ Attended several meetings to discuss permitting requirements.

Performance Measure: Provide the number of RCDs that receive permit handouts. Provide the number of RCD permit training opportunities.

Objective 6: Promote community and watershed-based approaches to land and resource conservation throughout the watershed.

- ✓ Collaborated with the Friends of the Tembladero Slough, a watershed group.
- ✓ Attended Upper Salinas River Task Force meeting.

Performance Measure: Provide a regional list of RCD-assisted community groups, new or potential community groups and RCD support strategies for each community group identified.

Napa County Resource Conservation District

San Pablo Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: \$54,100 **Match Provided:** \$24,716

Additional Funding Obtained: \$371,400

Benefits to the Watershed

- > Grants to model the physical dynamics of the watershed have been obtained.
- ➤ On-the-ground monitoring is occurring in several locations within the watershed.
- > Technical experts have provided educational presentations to private landowners and several are now working with NRCS to implement restoration projects on their property.

Partnerships

Partnerships established with over 40 landowners and interested citizens within the watershed, SF Regional Water Quality Control Board, USGS, NRCS, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, DFG, Richard Slade (consultant), the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Pacific Watershed Associates and Laurel Marcus and Associates. Coordinator is also working with the City of Napa's Public Works Department and the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Facilitate development of Carneros Creek Stewardship.

- ✓ Formed stewardship in February.
- ✓ Adopted stewardship goals and mission statement (goals include watershed assessment, education, restoration, protection of human resources and an enduring stewardship).
- ✓ Stewardship developed, implemented and now maintains a volunteer well-monitoring program involving 25 private wells (an additional 12-15 wells to be added this spring).
- ✓ Stewardship donated \$10,500 to RCD to pay for construction of telemetric stream gage on Carneros Creek.
- ✓ Awarded a CALFED grant in the amount of \$360,900 of which \$145,000 will be used to conduct assessment of the watershed.

Stewardship members collecting well data

Performance Measure: Watershed management plan, prioritized list for watershed restoration projects and grant proposal.

Objective 2: Provide assistance to the Sulphur Creek Watershed Task Force.

✓ Met with task force three times to help develop watershed priorities (first priority is to conduct assessment of watershed health).

✓ Budgeted \$150,000 of CALFED grant to conduct assessment of watershed. Two restoration projects identified in Sulphur Creek with grant application for \$107,769 pending.

Performance Measure: Priority restoration plan, grant proposal to fund efforts.

Objective 3: Assist the City of Napa with scoping sessions to identify future potential for a land stewardship on Salvador Channel.

- ✓ Coordinating with City of Napa and Napa County Flood Control District to develop stewardship group for Salvador Channel.
- ✓ Developed partial mailing list of community members.
- ✓ Submitted project proposal to City of Napa to develop hydrologic models of existing stream channel and various channel enhancements. Project proposal covers two years and outlines the planning process.

Performance Measure: Identify interests and opportunities for the development of a watershed planning process.



Carneros Creek, Napa County

Placer County Resource Conservation District

North Fork American River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$77,300 **Match Provided:** \$26,400

Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,403,940

Benefits to the Watershed

Expanded and enhanced the stakeholder network that is the American River Watershed Group with greater participation and attendance.

- Received \$354,000 CALFED grant to address watershed issues and need for a Watershed Plan and Ecological Unit Inventory for the whole watershed for next three years.
- ➤ Received \$200,000 Proposition 13 Grant to address sedimentation, the primary threat to water quality in the watershed, over the next three years.
- Established multi-watershed GIS database and initiated the GIS Watershed Center.

Partnerships

American River Watershed Group (ARWG), Placer County Water Agency, NRCS, American River Watershed Institute (ARWI), El Dorado County RCD, Nevada County RCD, County of Placer, Miwork/Maidu Cultural Assn., Edwards Family Tree Farm, Lone Star Inc., USFS Nevada City Ranger District, the Bear River CRMP Group, City of Auburn, and City of Colfax.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Provide coordination to the ARWG.

- ✓ Moderated and facilitated monthly public ARWG meetings.
- ✓ Coordinated subcommittee and core committee meetings.
- ✓ Completed required grant reports.
- ✓ Wrote 15 grants to address long-term issues of the group.
- ✓ Received \$554,000 in grants for a sediment management plan, an Ecological Unit Inventory, and a watershed plan.

Performance Measure: Meeting minutes, monthly/quarterly/final reports, and ARWG Annual Report completed.

Objective 2: Oversee and coordinate on-the-ground projects; initiate new programs; establish demonstration sites.

- ✓ Catalyzed Comprehensive Fire Plan for 45,000 acres by the Auburn Dam Project Fire Group.
- ✓ Initiated series of demonstration sites for Urban Wildland Interface on Auburn Dam Canyonlands.
- ✓ Defined future demonstration sites for I-80 corridor.
- ✓ Completed two community residential defensible space demonstration sites.
- ✓ Completed planning, secured grant monies, and will complete implementation of the first phase of a fuel reduction demonstration site at the Foresthill High School Forest Reserve.



Assisting with data collection in the Truckee River Watershed, Placer County

✓ Established multi-watershed GIS database and initiated the GIS Watershed Center.

Performance Measure: Prioritized list of projects, minutes of meetings, copies of grants written, agreements for demo sites, maps of sites, agreement for WS GIS Center, agenda and minutes of workshops and presentations, website improvement exemplars.

Objective 3: Expand and enhance American River Watershed Group stakeholder network.

- ✓ Cities of Auburn and Colfax, two metropolitan areas in the American River Watershed, joined ARWG and signed the MOU.
- ✓ All major land use planning entities in the watershed are now part of official network.
- ✓ Formed the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance.
- ✓ Established the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council.

Performance Measure: Signatory list of ARWG MOU, agendas and meeting minutes, organizational papers for new Fire Safe Councils, agendas and minutes of town hall meetings.

Objective 4: Implement watershed education programs.

- ✓ Held two workshops in sedimentation research as part of the summer workshop series.
- ✓ Started grant search program to identify prospects and devise funding strategy for expansion of the Watershed Institute.
- ✓ Planning training workshops in rapid bio-assessment methodologies.

Performance Measure: Agendas and minutes of summer workshops, copies of grants, agreement for education network, course description and agreements.

Objective 5: Build capacity for American River Watershed Institute.

- ✓ Institute formally received IRS 501(c)(3) status.
- ✓ Institute hosted an Environmental Studies class from UC Santa Barbara for a week.
- ✓ Started grant search program.

Performance Measure: Grants for ARWI education programs, membership program documentation and database, website exemplars and brochures, strategic plan report.



Watershed education workshop, Truckee River Watershed, Placer County

Placer County Resource Conservation District

Truckee River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$82,200 **Match Provided:** \$27,400

Additional Funding Obtained: \$3,500

Benefits to the Watershed

- > Started watershed assessment by producing overview report and compiling Data Gap Analysis.
- ➤ Priorities for Sub-watershed Assessments drafted.
- ➤ Approved 18 priorities for watershed restoration or acquisition projects.

Partnerships

Truckee River Habitat Restoration Group, NRCS, Sierra County Resource Advisory Committee, Eastern Sierra Highways Group, Nevada County, Placer County, Tahoe National Forest (USFS), Alpine Meadows Ski Corp, California Conservation Corps, CDF, California Fish & Game, Lahontan RWQCB, Denvale Property Assn., Desert Research Institute, Mountain Area Preservation Foundation, Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Nevada County RCD, North Tahoe Regional Advisory Board, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Water Agency, River Ranch, Sierra County, Sierra Pacific Industries, Sierra Pacific Power Co., Sierra Watch, Squaw Valley Ski Corp, Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council, Tahoe - Truckee High School, Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Donner Public Utilities District, Truckee River Rafting, UC Davis, and USFWS.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Obtain technical assistance for a watershed assessment and education outreach efforts.

- ✓ Technical consultant hired and oriented, managed by watershed coordinator.
- ✓ Overview report of current watershed assessment titled: *Truckee River Baseline Watershed Assessment* completed.
- ✓ Developed more accurate watershed map.
- ✓ Indexed all existing GIS data.
- ✓ Completed Data Gap Analysis for watershed.

Performance Measure: UC Davis technical assistance to the CRMP is maintained for the life of grant.

Objective 2: Identify and prioritize sub-watershed assessments within the larger Truckee watershed and identify and pursue funding options.

- ✓ Sub-watersheds identified and mapped.
- ✓ Criteria (Filter Factors) for prioritizing subwatersheds developed and refined.
- ✓ Developed specific objectives, tasks and timelines for sub-watershed assessments.
- ✓ Developed funding/partnership strategies for conducting assessments and researched potential grant sources.



Degraded stream banks on Little Truckee
River, Placer County

✓ Clean Water Act 205(j) sub-watershed assessment proposal for \$124,000 completed, passed through two review stages, and currently in final review.

Performance Measure: Secure funding for two sub-watershed assessments.

Objective 3(a): Identify and prioritize watershed improvement projects (b) Pursue funding.

- ✓ TRWC has identified and mapped its initial set of 18 improvement projects.
- ✓ Criteria for prioritizing improvement projects developed and applied to projects identified.
- ✓ List of improvement (restoration) projects prioritized.
- ✓ Developed funding/partnership strategies for four improvement projects.
- ✓ Six grant proposals will be submitted in the next three months.

Performance Measure: Secure funding to implement one project.

Objective 4: Manage all program efforts of the Truckee River Watershed CRMP.

- ✓ Coordinated, facilitated, and documented monthly TRWC meetings.
- ✓ Coordinated, facilitated, and documented all subcommittee meetings.
- ✓ Attended local stakeholder meetings to ensure effort coordination.
- ✓ Recruited additional stakeholders for TRWC membership.
- ✓ Coordinating TRWC watershed assessments and project implementation.

Performance Measure: Truckee River Watershed CRMP is regarded by members, stakeholders, and outside entities as an effective vehicle for improving water quality and biological resources in the watershed.



Coldstream Creek, Placer County, a priority site for assessment and restoration

Objective 5: Establish institutional structure for the Truckee River CRMP.

- Researched and assessed structure options.
- ✓ Steps necessary to implement preferred option to be determine in January 2002.

Performance Measure: Institutional structure is established and all legal details are in place.